

REMARKS

The Non-final Office Action, mailed July 30, 2007, considered claims 1–13, 25 and 27. Claims 1–13 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Shuman, U.S. Patent No. 6,424,995 (filed Aug. 13, 1998) (hereinafter Shuman).¹

By this response, claims 1 and 25 are amended and claim 27 is cancelled. Claims 1–25 remain pending. Claims 1 and 25 are independent claims which remain at issue. Support for the amendments may be found within Specification ¶¶ 59 and Figure 1.²

As reflected in the claims, the present invention is directed generally toward methods and products for efficiently and reliably providing message related data. Claim 1, for instance, in combination with all the elements recited in the claim, is a method whereby an operating system receives a registration request from a message application, the operating system determines that a folder silo has resources available to satisfy the registration request and allocates space within the folder silo for the request, and then maintains an indication that the message application has control of the folder space so that other message applications can be made aware that the application has control. Further, the operating system analyzes the current arrangement of the message silo to determine if a second message application is currently registered for the name space of the folder registration request and upon determining that the second message application is already registered for the name space of the folder registration request, the operating system returns an appropriate signal to the message application.

Claim 25 recites, in combination with all the claim's elements, a computer program product implementing a method similar to that specified in claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner indicated that dependent claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.³

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² However, it should be noted that the present invention and claims as recited take support from the entire Specification. As such, no particular part of the Specification should be considered separately from the entirety of the Specification.

³ Office Communication p. 9 (paper no. 20070719) (mailed July 30, 2007).

The previously presented claim 27 indicated as allowable if rewritten was a dependent claim dependent only upon independent claim 1.

Instead of incorporating the limitations of claim 1 into claim 27, by this response, claim 1 has equivalently been amended to include all the limitations having previously been presented in claim 27. This amendment places claim 1 in exactly the same form as claim 27 would have been having been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and so, too, are claims 2–13 which are dependent upon claim 1.

Independent claim 25 is a computer program product which embodies the method as recited in claim 1. As such, claim 25 is now also in condition for allowance.

As each of the remaining independent claims, 1 and 25, has now been placed in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of independent claims 1 and 25 and of dependent claims 2–13.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Examiner rejected the previously presented claims 1 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Shuman.⁴ These rejections are now moot because, as discussed above, the Applicants have now amended claims 1 and 25 to include the limitations of previously presented claim 27 which, as indicated by the Examiner,⁵ now place the claims in condition for allowance. However, it should be noted that the claims are amended by this response to expedite the issuance of allowable subject matter but the present amendments in no way evince any intent by the Applicants to surrender previously claimed subject matter nor do the present amendments evince any concession by the Applicants as to the teachings of Shuman.

The applicants reserve the right to pursue the previously claimed subject matter at some future time as may be considered desirable. For purposes of such possible future prosecution (which may, for example, take the form of a continuation application), the Applicants hereby reiterate and incorporate the arguments and remarks of the previous Amendment B filed May 14, 2007 concerning the previously presented claims 1 and 25 and the prior art Shuman.

⁴ Office Comm. p. 2.

⁵ Office Comm. p. 9.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicants specifically request that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 30th day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



RICK D. NYDEGGER
Registration No. 28,651
JENS C. JENKINS
Registration No. 44,803
Attorneys for Applicant
Customer No. 47973

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